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ABSTRACT

Assignment of Channel 12 for noncommercial educational use in Booneville, Miss., has been proposed by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) in a May, 1972, Notice of Proposed Rule Making. The Notice said the allocation of Channel 12, part of the Very High Frequency (VHF) bandwidth, was requested by the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television (MAET); and that the MAET had argued although there is an unassigned Ultra High Frequency (UHF) channel in Boonesville, a VHF channel would provide better reception at less cost. The FCC reported that TV broadcasters in Chatanooga, Tenn., Augusta, Ga., and Jackson, Miss., expressed concern about how the proposed channel would affect reception of their signals. The FCC invited comments from TV stations which may have to make technical changes to accommodate the proposed channel, to determine whether, if the allocation is made, it should be on a restricted basis. (MG)

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REVISION

84794

Report No. 10658 BROADCAST ACTIONS May 17, 1972 - B

ASSIGNMENT OF EDUCATIONAL TV CHANNEL *12 AT BOONEVILLE, MISS. PROPOSED BY FCC. Assignment of Channel *12 for noncommercial educational use in Booneville, Miss., has been proposed by the FCC in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making. The Commission pointed out that even though there is an available UHF frequency in Booneville, Channel *12 can be assigned there in keeping with FCC rules and policies. It said the petitioner and other parties would have the opportunity to explore the proposed assignment in a rule making proceeding. The rule making was requested by the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television (MAET), which is responsible for coordinating all educational broadcast activities in the state. MAET stated that Channel *12 could be assigned to Booneville in compliance with the minimum spacing requirements and other technical criteria, and that significant economies would result from the operation of a VHF rather than UHF station. The Commission said that while there were no outright oppositions to the proposal, station WDEF-TV, Channel 12, Chattanooga, Tenn., requested that MAET present a plan to protect all existing Channel 12 operations; Station WRDW-TV, Channel 12, August, Ga., requested reimbursement for costs required to make technical changes, and Station WJTV, Jackson, Miss., indicated concern about the possible disruptive effects of an unrestricted Channel *12 in Booneville on the reception of WJTV in northeast Mississippi. The Commission said comments were invited from the licensees of stations which may have to make technical changes to accommodate the proposed Channel 12 drop-in. Since WJTV raised a public interest question of loss of service from an unrestricted assignment, the Commission said that it would entertain comments concerning the gains and losses of service to WJTV and to an assignment at Booneville operating both with and without a directional antenna to determine whether, if the allocation is made, it should be on a restricted basis. Comments are due by July 5, 1972, with replies due by July 25, 1972. (Action by the Commission May 17, 1972, by Notice of Proposed Rule Making. Commissioners Burch (Chairman), Bartley, Robert E. Lee, Johnson, H. Rex Lee, Reid and Wiley.)

(Over)

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VALLEJO-FAIRFIELD, SACRAMENTO AND STOCKTON, CALIF., AMENDMENTS TO TELEVISION TABLE OF ASSIGNMENTS PROPOSED BY FCC. Assignment of Channel 66 to Vallejo-Fairfield and transfer of Channel 31 from Stockton to Sacramento, Calif., have been proposed in a rule making notice by the FCC (RM-1839, RM-1948). The proposed Vallejo-Fairfield assignment is in response to a petition filed July 28, 1971 by Daniel C. McGrath. McGrath pointed out that a station in this location (mid-way between Sacramento and San Francisco) would serve a population in excess of 100,000 people and would provide them with local area information not available on the San Francisco and Sacramento stations which currently serve the area. The second petition, proposing the shifting of Channel 31 from Stockton to Sacramento, assignment of Channel 64 to Stockton and deletion of Channel 15 from Sacramento, was submitted by Grayson Television Company, Inc. on March 29, 1972. Grayson is the permit holder of Channel 15 (KMUV). The original construction site was not satisfactory and KMUV filed an application for a modification of the construction permit. Interested parties may file comments on or before July 5, 1972, and reply comments on or before July 17, 1972. (Action by the Commission May 17, 1972 by Notice of Proposed Rule Making. Commissioners Burch (Chairman), Bartley, Robert E. Lee, Johnson, H. Rex Lee, Reid and Wiley.)

WSJV-TV, CHANNEL 28, ELKHART, IND., AUTHORIZED TO CHANGE FACILITIES. Truth Publishing Company, Inc., licensee of television station WSJV, Elkhart, Ind., has been authorized by the FCC to change the facilities of its UHF television station WSJV, Channel 28, Elkhart, Ind., to operate with a nondirectional antenna and 1510 kilowatts power. WSJV had been authorized in 1969 to operate with a directional antenna with 37 kilowatts power, and antenna height of 1,090 feet. This resulted in an increase in Grade B overlap with commonly-owned station WKJG-TV, Channel 33, Fort Wayne. In its request for nondirectional facilities, Truth stated that the change, while further increasing overlap between the stations, would result in improved service. Truth also pointed to the decrease of its ownership in WKJG-TV. Grant of the application is subject to the condition that operation with power in excess of 1000 kilowatts after May 1, 1974, is subject to consent by Canada, and requires field intensity measurements prior to program test authority. (Action by the Commission May 17, 1972. Commissioners Burch (Chairman), Robert E. Lee, Reid and Wiley, with Commissioners Bartley, Johnson and H. Rex Lee dissenting.)

-FCC-

B

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

FCC 72-426
75851

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Amendment of Section 73.606(b),	)	Docket No. 19510
Table of Assignments,	)	RM-1746
Television Broadcast Stations.	)	
(Booneville, Mississippi)	)	

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Adopted: May 17, 1972 ; Released: May 22, 1972

By the Commission:

1. On February 11, 1971, the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television (hereafter "MAET"), filed a petition requesting that Channel 12 be assigned to Booneville, Mississippi for noncommercial educational use. The current and proposed assignments to Bonneville are:

	Channel No.	
City	Present	Proposed
Booneville, Mississippi	*20	*12, *20

No other revisions in the Table of Assignments were proposed. Statements in respect to the petition were filed by Roy H. Park Broadcasting Of Tennessee, licensee of Station WDEF-TV, Channel 12-, Chattanooga, Tennessee; the Association of Maximum Service Telecasters (AMST); Capitol Broadcasting Company, licensee of Station WJTV, Channel 12+, Jackson, Mississippi; and by Rustcraft Broadcasting Company, licensee of Station WRDW-TV, Channel 12+, Augusta, Georgia. 1/ MAET filed a response to the statements.

2. MAET is the instrumentality of the State of Mississippi that is responsible for coordinating all educational broadcast activities in the state. One of the specific duties is that of developing a statewide educational network. In furtherance of this objective, MAET filed a petition for rule making to allocate educational channels to 8 cities in Mississippi. In that proceeding (Docket No. 19263, RM-1684), the Commission allocated channels to the 8 cities including Channel *20 2/ to Booneville, even though MAET had

1/ The Rustcraft pleading was not timely filed, but the Commission grants leave for the late filing and will consider it on the merits because it involves a possible co-channel offset.

2/ MAET has a pending application for construction permit on Channel *20. Should the Commission drop-in Channel *12, it may well delete the Channel *20 reservation at Booneville.

requested no UHF assignment for Booneville, preferring to wait for a VHF assignment as herein requested.

3. The bases of MAET's request is that Channel 12 can be assigned to Booneville in compliance with the minimum spacing requirements and other technical criteria, and that significant economies will result in the operation of a VHF rather than a UHF station. To strengthen this request, MAET proposes to operate Channel *12 with a directional antenna and precision frequency control to restrict radiation towards Jackson, Mississippi by "providing 'better-than-standard' co-channel protection to the service area of Station WJTV . . ." MAET states that hearings were held in Booneville on the need for a VHF facility, and, with the exception of Station WJTV, the testimony was that the terrain in the area in question is the most rugged in the state and VHF facilities are needed to adequately serve the area. It was further asserted that the all-channel set ratio to total sets is very low in the area, because over 90% of the schools have VHF-only receivers. Because of the low ratio of UHF sets in the area, very little educational television service is available in the area. MAET contends that the income level in the area is low placing a formidable bar to set replacement in an area with a lower than average educational level where continuing educational programs are the most needed.

4. Another hearing by MAET was held in Jackson and following the hearing it was unanimously voted to apply for reservation of Channel *12 at Booneville. MAET asserts that it will implement the proposed operations on Channel *12 if the assignment is made.

5. There were no outright oppositions to the proposal, but AMST requested that the assignment, if made, conform to the minimum spacing requirements. Station WDEF-TV, Chattanooga, Tennessee requests that MAET present a plan of offset carrier operations to protect all existing Channel 12 operations. Station WRDW-TV, Augusta, Georgia, does not oppose the proposal, but requests reimburse for costs required to change frequency from 12+ to 12-.

6. Station WJTV, Jackson, Mississippi, raises concern about the possible disruptive effects of an unrestricted Channel *12 station in Booneville on the reception and enjoyment of its own television service in northeast Mississippi. WJTV contends, in its engineering showing, that such "unrestricted operation" would cause co-channel interference and that the Booneville allocation should be offset against WJTV to avoid such disruption. While WJTV argues that possible UHF operations should be fully explored, it concludes that, should Channel *12 be assigned as requested, that such assignment be conditioned requiring the proposed MAET directional system and the frequency offset referred to herein.

7. In reply, MAET "shores up" its engineering exhibit by specifying the proposed offsets as follows:

Station	Offset	
	Present	Proposed
Booneville, Mississippi		12-
WDEF-TV, Chattanooga, Tennessee	12-	12+
WRDW, Augusta, Georgia	12+	12-
WFGA, Jacksonville, Florida	12-	12+

MAET also reiterated the technical feasibility and compliance of the proposal.

8. Petitioner shows that there is an area near Booneville where sites are available which will meet the minimum mileage separations of the Rules for the assignment of Channel 12. A prospective site in the area has been selected, from which petitioner indicates that the requisite principal community signal could be provided to Booneville. A definite carrier offset pattern is made a part of the Notice so comments are invited from the licensees of stations which may have to change carrier offset to accommodate the proposed Channel 12 drop-in.

9. Our television allocations plan provides for the consideration of petitions for rule making to assign channels meeting the mileage separation standards of Section 73.610 of our rules. These standards recognize the probability of co-channel and adjacent channel interference being caused and, accordingly, there is no requirement in our rules that a station so assigned, utilize a directional antenna system. Station WJTV does raise however, a public interest question of loss of service from an unrestricted assignment and we will entertain comments concerning the gains and losses of service to WJTV and to an assignment at Booneville operating both with and without a directional antenna to determine whether, if the allocation is made, it should be on a restricted basis.

10. Even though there is an available UHF frequency in Booneville, Channel 12, as proposed, can be assigned there in accordance with all the rules and policies of the Commission. Thus, we have decided to give the petitioner and other parties the opportunity to explore, in a rule making proceeding, the proposed assignment. Commenting parties should file comments explaining fully the use of and need for Channel *12 at Booneville, as well as any other public interest considerations, such as the question of reimbursement to any station requiring a change in its offset pattern and the question of a directional operation.

11. Based on the material before us, we propose to consider the following revisions in our Television Table of Assignments (Section 73.606(b) of the Rules) with respect to the cities listed below:

City	Channel No. Present	Channel No. Proposed
Jacksonville, Florida	4+, *7, 12-, 17, 30, 47, *59	4+, *7, 12+, 17, 30, 47, *59
Augusta, Georgia	6+, 12+, 26, 54	6+, 12-, 26, 54
Booneville, Mississippi	*20	*12-, *20
Chattanooga, Tennessee	3+, 9, 12-, *45, 61	3+, 9, 12+, *45, 61

12. Authority for the action proposed herein is contained in Sections 4(i), 303, and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

13. Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Section 1.415 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments on or before July 5, 1972, and reply comments on or before July 17, 1972. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings.

14. In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.419 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and 14 copies of all written comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents, shall be furnished the Commission.

15. All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Public Reference Room at its Headquarters in Washington, D.C. (1919 M Street, N.W.).

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Ben F. Waple
Secretary